

Chapter 127: Reaction and Adjustment











You're strange-looking, right? You're still a first year, and yet they disregarded the age and made you the starter, isn't that amazing?

You're so big.



It's Hello.



What's up with him?

*When they said
he resembles
me, they
weren't
completely off
the mark.*





*Finally,
we're
next!!*





*Two hours
From now,
we too will know
whether our
summer ends
here or keeps
going!!*





Today, the left
fielder of third year
Kawakawa...
A right-handed
batter. The lefty
Inoue isn't here,
so it's a good thing
for us...















But,
in order for us
to win, we must
defend through
the most
dangerous
part, top of the
first inning.

If it
drags out to
the 9th inning,
our probability
of winning will
keep going
down.



I'm kidding.
The plan to
win the game
by hitting as
quickly as
possible is
unchanged.



Same as always.
Do what you can
do reliably.
Concentrate on
each play and
don't make any
rushed decisions.

The theme
is power
of
concentration.



First batter,
second base
bel Katsutoyo



Third batter,
left fielder
Kamibakaba
Team



Second batter,
catcher
Yoshio Saito



First batter, first base
Kawaguchi Tetsuhiko



Fourth batter,
right fielder
Kosuge Takeshi



Sixth batter, third base
Kamekawa Isamu



Defend with the conviction that the batted ball will fly to your position!

If the batter swings the bat, the ball will surely go to one of the fielders!



Black batter, center fielder
Iwazaki Masashi



Eight batter, pitcher
Slave Strangler



Seventh batter, shortstop
Masamune Tetsuya



The one whose
power of
concentration
falls first will
lose this
match...





Defending,
hitting, running,
every single
play leads to
the Koshien!!

Alright,
everything
is starting
today!!

SAIGAKU





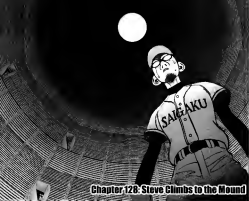
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LOOKING
FOR STAFF.



Chapter 128: Steve Climbs to the Mound

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Chapter 128: Steve Climbs to the Mound



*Am I in the
outfield...?*

*Why is
the home
plate so
distant...?*

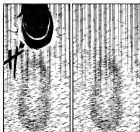


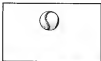
















He needs
to go
slower!!

Between Glave's
100 km/h fastball and
65 km/h "pretend",
there's not much room to
disrupt a batter's timing.
And it's out of the ques-
tion for him to throw a
faster pitch in order to
widen that difference!



So
that
means...



And
for that,
he needs
to take
a shorter
step than
normal...



HERE I
GO, BAN!



GO

(Start of the Game again)



Slack
the upper body
forward on
purpose, and
make the arm's
swing slower.



If they're
expecting a
Fastball's
swing, and
such a slow
pitch comes
their way...

Because
of that, the
difference with
the Fastball
will be over
20 km/h.





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ch. 10 pg. 11





IT'S
TWO
OUTS,
STEVE
!!



BATTING
THIRD,
LEFT
FIELDER,
AZUMA-
KUN.





*We have
to verify
it...*



*There's
another
over
pitch?*

*We
don't
have
only
one
pitcher?*



**STRIKE
!**

*Oops, I was
supposed to
fines off a
breaking
ball*



**AZUMA,
TAKE
YOUR TIME
AND
WATCH
CLOSELY!**



*A breaking
ball faster
than
before!!
Right is off!*







Nice
pitching!

Yashio-san,
I'm so totally
wowed right
now.

It's too
early for
that.

Good
going,
dude.



OUT!!

So
useless
I



We've
crossed
the first
mountain...



Mitsuo-san,
aren't you
a little
worried?
"Your" new
mountain is in
trouble!!



We'll be in trouble
if he doesn't
keep them
suppressed. We
can't afford to
lose him!

Really?



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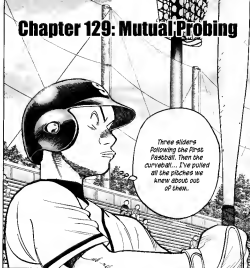
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Chapter 129: Mutual Probing





1975 10/10/75



IT WENT
THROUGH!!
A HIT IN
FRONT OF
THE RIGHT
FIELD!!





He made us pitch even a curveball from the start.

Not bad, that's the top batter of a seeded school for you.



Good. A Forecast as predicted."



BATTING SECOND, CATCHER, YASHIO-KUN.



He was the real first batter to begin with. Because until now, Ikoku was the zero batter.

It looks like the new batting lineup with Ooi as No. 1 was just right.



In any case, we got a runner with no outs. If we bring him home, we get a head start.









There isn't much data on this guy... But he looks pretty capable from his appearance.



YEAH !!



GO— IF YOU DON'T LET HERE, YOU'RE NOT A MAN!!



I'll be sure to hit! I'll score on the next start with my bat!!



Here it is! A perfect inside corner to put the ball!









So
we were
slightly
unlucky,
Ryu...



Just now,
it felt more like
he accidentally
drock the glove
out and the ball
just happened
to fly into it.

There's
no doubt that
he's the type
who's not
mindful of
defense.



DON'T
LET THIS
PRAG
YOU
DOWN,
CLEAR
YOUR
MINDS!!



Sho Shing



AW-
RIGHT!!
RIPE
THIS
FLOW
AND
BRING
IT
ON!!



Ten



...Dean
Takahara,
interrupting
the flow we
had going!



BATTING
FIFTH,
CATCHER,
NAKAMACHI
-KUN.



*I guess
I'll have
to do it
myself...*



*It's this captain
of theirs... They
said he resembles
Coach Hologram,
we have to be
careful with him...*



*Stronach...
I can see
all of your
pitches!*

















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Chapter 130: Breach









OFF Spring







We got
unlucky
again...



I didn't
like the
look of
that kid.



I feel like
the flow is
going in their
favor after
the double
play on
Kazuo's play.



WE'LL
GET
THEM
OUT.
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT!









We're saved...



Oh, well...



Didn't we decide to go after Baseball? Why didn't you hit?





As members of a baseball club from a small, weak high school, we'd somehow get through our three years playing some ball and then graduate. Like the upperclassmen had done up till then—



IF YOU'RE
NOT TRYING
TO WIN, THEN
WE CAN'T
HAVE YOU AS
REGULARS
JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE THIRD
YEARS!!

THEN
PLEASE
QUIT THE
CLUB
RIGHT
NOW!!

STS

Don't get
carried away,
Nakamachi.

Do you even
understand
what you're
saying?







Moreover,
we
started
thinking
that we
can win
as long as
we do our
best.









BACK HOME!!







We'll follow
you,
Kakimachi!!



It felt like
there was
a sting
to it.



Yeah!



And then
you just
have to
pitch
well!



I've opened
a breach. From
here on out,
push harder
and harder!





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Chapter 131: Think Veeery Well!



I'm getting
substituted...
After all, I'm
a show... It's not
like could pass for
a real pitcher to
begin with...



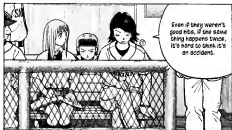
That's
not
true













It's not clear to me, that's why I said to think about it!



You're acting all cool again...! If you know, then you should just explain it clearly!



I can't see all the details from the bench.







I- I'm
sorry---

All you got
is your big
body, it's
pathetic!



No. 6 and No. 7
who were able
to hit women's
base differently
from the
No. 9...

The head of
the bat is
pointed
downward,
it's a swing
with little
power...





*Like
the coach
said, those
two hits
weren't
a coincidence.
They hit
because this
is the bottom
of their lineup!*



*Almost all
batters on this
team have
a weak swing...
So when they
spot their chance
and put their
strength into it...*





Don't
worry!!
Trust
me!!











TEAM	1	2	3
Shintoshin	0	1	
Saigaku	0		





Aren't you
in a good
mood.



Got the
opponent
got a head
start on
us...



Okay,
okayay!!
Good job
getting
through it!!



Of course,
it's the
combined
score for him
and Tashio.



One run in
the first rotation
is enough of
a passing score
I can give them
75



do we
passed by
the aim of
our teeth...

To do so?
Aren't you
too easy on
him?



TIME TO
COUNTER-
ATTACK!!



SHOW
THEM
THE
TERROR
OF OUR
CLEANUP
—!!

GO,
TAKE SHE
!!



There's nothing
to apologize
for, Yesho.
Even Poppo
couldn't ignore
it out.

I'm
sorry.







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Chapter 132: What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger?

BOTTOM OF
THE FOURTH,
SAITAMA
ACADEMY ON
THE OFFENSE,
BATTING THIRD,
LEFT FIELD,
KAMIFURUKA-
KUN!!

TEAM

Shinkashin

Saigaku

1 2 3 4 5 6
0 1 0 0

0 0 0

6 7 8 9

PL 1B 2B 3B

越 陸 常 上
前 南 陸 鈴

8 4 7 5 2 3 9 6 1
新 桜 浅 高 仲 大 吉 宮 大



TIME
TO
SCORE
A RUN
Are
READY
—!!













BALL
FOUR!



P- PLEASE
STOP SUCH
VULGAR
JEERING.

Ball, aren't
you a woman?



YOU KEEP
RUNNING
AWAY, AND
YOU CALL
YOURSELF
A MAN!?



DO YOU
HAVE
ANY
BA
ON
YOU
—!!?



YOU'RE
PLAYING
PARTY—!!



FIGHT
HIM, YOU
BASTARD
—!!

Don't
get so
over-
excited.



Don't you think
that bringing in
a strong hitter
from outside
the prefecture
is much different?

It's only
natural,
in order
to win.



It'll be
strife.
They'll win
for sure.



IF they take
him, all my hard
work of chasing
Coach Katsugaya
for places a
year will be for
nothing.

I want two hits
so far... but
they're walking
the main hitter
off the team...



Couch
Ratogaga
will definitely
come up with
something.



Ratogaga
-sen...



Couch,
it's just
weird.



Whatever it
is, there are
too many hits
toward the
shortstop.





He reacts to
what the pitcher
throws and the
trajectory, and
changes his
defensive position
significantly
every pitch.



To the
hole on
purpose
??



Hold on, the
third base
sucks, right?
So why would
they make us
hit on
purpose to
the hole?



That proves
that the
battery are
making us hit
to the hole on
purpose.





It's a good
chance to
test your
batter's
weakness.



Go to the right...
What if Sakurachi has
already taken that into
account...? ...If it were
me, I'd pitch to
a difficult spot to
control the batted ball
even further.



Then maybe
what she
meant would
be planning.



Anyway, since
we understand
that much, let's
do something
about it!



What's
that? Are
you praising
me? Or
bragging?

I get how
they say he
reminds
me.



Shouldn't we in-
struct them to
start hitting to
the right hand?
At this rate,
we're caught
in their tech-
nique—



If we demonstrate an overwhelming difference in power, it'll put pressure on the opponents we'll be facing in the future.

In this match, we **MUST** crush them head on!



If we let a lower-ranked opponent tag with us, if we walk into it ourselves, then we'll be looked down on as only that much of a team.

On the other hand...

20



IF WE
LOSE, IT'S
OVER!!

DON'T GET
SO JITTERY,
GEEZ—!
RIGHT NOW
IS MORE IM-
PORTANT
THAN
WHAT'S IN
THE FUTURE!

THAT'S
EXACTLY
RIGHT. HIT
RIGHT OR
WHATEVER,
WE JUST
HAVE TO
WIN!!



With
whatever,
we won't
reach the
Koshien!!

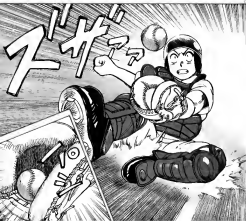
SAIGAKU













Ah, could
it be...



Even
though
they got
in out
with their
Pine player?

Is there
anything to
be happy
about?





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BRING
IT
ON—!!

IT'S
ONE
OUT!!



And if he further
came up with a second
plan in case we start
hitting to the right, the
match will drag on and
it will become a terrible
situation for us.
We're way out big on
our expectation of
an overwhelming
victory.

In order to hide their
weakness, Nakamachi
sends all batted balls to
the hole on purpose.
That's a first class job
for a high schooler.

Stee,
don't
get
scared
!



Just
how good is
Nakamachi...?
That was my
worry...



Chapter 133: At a Stroke

Chapter 133: At a Stroke





He did everything in his power to hide that the third base is a weakness. The desperate play just now proves it!



He lets the third base deal with easy balls, but he leaves everything else to the shortstop, the only guy he relies on in the infield. However...



THIRD !!













You can manage that much at least. That's Kawasumi's prize.



Don't let them go toward me all the time.



THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO ARGUE ABOUT IT!!



Y- Yeah.



Right, we can only count on you. Please get it done.









Do they
have the
back home
for us?
... Yeah,
begging
as often a
single run







SAFE
!!



HELL
YEAH,
WE'RE
TIED
!!





PUSH
AND DE-
STROY
—!!



HELL
YEAH,
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH!

NICE
RUN,
STEVE
!!



IT'S MORE LIKE
HE STEPPED
OVER HIM
RATHER THAN
JUMPER!! HIS
2 M CAME IN
HANDY FOR THE
FIRST TIME!!



Which means,
it won't be
a fastball?
They'll try to
score the first
strike with a
breaking ball.

Their
defense is
in bad luck.
They'll want
to strike us
out here for
sure...



In this
situation,
even I
might not
be able to
recover...

The
shortstop
he relied
on made a
mistake as
well...



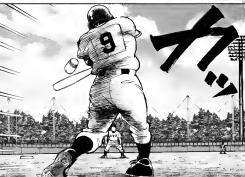


If you could do
that, you'd be a
seeded school.
People don't
move around
to win, they
expectation
that's what
you want.



...If we can get
a double play
off him, we can
once again turn
the flow in our
favor!

The
clerup



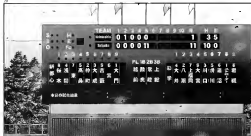
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*In order to move
people according to
your ideal
expectations, neither
your baseball nor
your life career
are long enough.
Come back after
you've gone through
more hardship.*

*Your dream isn't
a team to win
1-0. Your original
plan of trying to
break through
was correct.*









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Chapter 134: The Next Move













*It looks like
you'll have
a good
team from
now on,
Nakamachi*

...







Kakagoro
Dai's
previous
couch



Yeah, it's about
that person...
how about
tomorrow in
the evening?



Yes

That
person...
him?



He probably
remembers
about "that" in
the past...



It's not like
I really
want to
meet him.



He won't
grumble now about
what occurred
14 years ago. Besides,
officially "that"
didn't happen to begin
with... In any case,
they won't last
long.





So Saigaku
wins their
first match in
a celled game.
Good good. As
expected.



I need you
to keep
advancing
and make sure
to reach the
Koshien.



Some mixed
juice, really
freshly
squeezed.

Since that Petty showed
up in the spring all of
a sudden, and was digging
for info on Kabogaya-san,
it's been on my mind.



But,
I was seriously
surprised when
I found out that
that Kabogaya-san
became a high school
basketball coach!



so I looked into
it... And then
it struck me.
I could definitely
make some money
out of it!



There's no way
that Petty man
could fit in this
world.

but academy
suspended

After all, it's
pure, righteous,
beautiful high
school baseball.

Hospitalization from
harsh training



This *Prudent*
Salesman
Katagaya-san, who
 skillfully and eloquently
 deceived people into
 buying ineffective
 health supplements
 from who knows
 where



But still,
 he's late. I told him
 to circulate around
 the neighborhood
 and collect
 complaints, but
 how long is that
 supposed to
 take...?



This area was
Katagaya-san's turf
 until a year ago. There will
 definitely be bad rumors
 about how he forced
 people to buy *Prudent*
 products.

ラストイニング 14



1000 1000 1000



Over—
Over
here!



And when
I investigated
people around
Kobayashi, this
is the old man
I dredged up.

*I'll gather
that information, and
as Saigaku continues to
win and advance, given
the right time... And
given the right place,
I will sell it...*





*A good-for-nothing
father who sold his
own son, Takeshi...*



*Having rescued the son
from this debt-ridden
father, Katsugeki and
Gaijako would surely
be praised by the
society instead.*

*Then I'll
have the
same...*



*When I
found him,
I won...
or so I
thought.*

WELCOME.



*However,
this guy's
been no good
to far...*

GOOD
BYE



*Um,
can I order
something?*





sign: House of Baseball Chinese Cooking



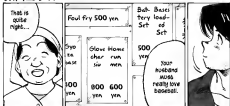
I see, so
it's not
gamakō, it's
ryūmōrō
rice.



So, how
about this
"Baseball
Fried rice"?



You need
nine people to
play baseball,
right? So
there are nine
ingredients in it.







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PEAR—
THE FAT
PERSON
IS HERE!!



What does the
man, grumble?
Wasn't I
supposed to
find out
something
about?



As he
promised,
he brought
someone
who's better
to you
grumble—!



Anyway,
I'll take
you to
him now.



W- Well,
it's just a
figure of
speech...

Chapter 135: **The Man Has Baseball History**













That lefty pitcher, Yoshikawa, was it?



Uh, yes.



The fact that Daigaku was able to reach the quarter final that year was thanks to your strength.



...So, now you're coaching in your alma mater?



Thank you very much!



I was amazed at how you managed to get to the quarterfinal with that kind of a pitcher.



Yeah! But I'm still a newbie in my first year...

Kumagata Katsuhide.
 Born in Showa 34
 (1959), attended
 Katsugano Palei
 High School.
 Swift-footed
 and an excellent
 batter.

He showed
 good results in
 the infield, and
 in the summer of
 his third year
 their team went
 to the Koshien.



After graduation,
 he joined the
 non-pro Musashino
 Automotive team,
 showed good
 results in urban
 tournaments, and
 retired at the age
 of 20.



The following year,
 he went on to the
 Palei University. He
 performed well in
 the Teito League.

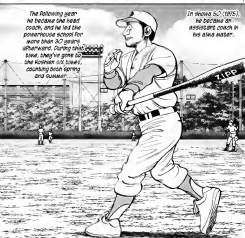




Incidentally,
his wife is his
high school
classmate.

Afterward,
he married
the daughter of
the owner of
a Chinese
restaurant near
Katsugawa Daiichi
high school.

11



The following year
he became the head
coach, and he led the
powerhouse school for
more than 30 years;
afterward, during that
time, they've gone to
the Koshien six times,
covering both spring
and summer.

In 1964 (1965),
he became an
advising coach in
his alma mater.





So in the end,
it was the loss
to Roosevelt in
the spring
prefectural
elections that
served as the
trigger...

I was just
some guy
running a Chinese
restaurant to
begin with. I
wasn't a part of
school stuff, so
it was easy to
fire me.



The times
have
changed,
the times.



They've been
wanting to get rid
of me even before
this. I was the
one who was
too
old-fashioned.



It's all about being
democratic now. You
must have respect
for students' goals.
You wouldn't force
them to do anything
against their will.



And then what?
Let the students
take any positions
in defense or
the batting order
they like?







In our baseball club
that's a little
Pawnee, the guys
who join are all kinds
of the mountain.



If you want them
to do as they're
told, you have
no choice but
to use force!



They've been
the ace of the
cleanup ever
since they were
kids. All of them
are stubborn
and full of
confidence.



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And more
quiet and
smart kids
come.



But in the
meantime,
a different
wind started
blowing. The
number of
gorillas
dwindled...



Even if
they're
not good,
to seriously
teach it
to the very
end.



So they quiet
or smart, what
we want is guys
who have the
nerve to play
baseball.





Is that,
there are
more guys
who don't have
the resolve,
they only come
to a school
famous for
baseball
calculating
how they'd get
into a good
college, find
a good job.



What
makes
me
mad...



It was
around
that
time...



And yet the
school changed
its policy
supporting
that...





It became
strange after
we defeated
you and went to
the Koshien.



The
Koshien
isn't
something
to go tell



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Chapter 136: Iron Fisted Truth









...I was
like that
too.



That's right!
In high school
baseball, who
wanted to go to
the Koshien
the most?
It's the coach!



If I heard
there might be
a good player in
middle school,
the little or
senior leagues,
I'd get in the
car and rush to
check him out.
So it is in the
roughening
town of a
different
prefecture.



I'd do
anything
I could think
of for that
purpose.



If he were as talented as Rumen had it, and what's more, not good academically, then it's even better! I'd want with the parents and start taking them about getting into our school on a recommendation.

That's when it happened. They told me that students I recommended still had to take the entrance exam!



That's how I'd gather the players, train them as hard as I could, and go to the Koshien...





I can't
help it if
their results
on the
entrance
exam were
poor.



THEY'RE
ATHLETES
THAT THE
BASEBALL
CLUB
NEEDS!!

WHY
CAN'T
YOU
PASS
THEM!?



It's the policy from
the university side.
From now on, they want
us to gather students
who are not only good
at sports, but also
academically.



BUT IT'S
ENOUGH
THAT THEY'RE
GOOD AT
BASEBALL!!





Well, umm,
you were
famous for
iron fisted
discipline,
Coach
Knapgate.



Corporal
punishment?



Naturally,
I had to
be serious.



So,
corporal
punishment?



At times like these,
was I supposed to say
"Thank you for your hard
work" and let them go?
If they didn't reflect on
their mistakes there
and then, what would
they? Or?



WHAT HAVE WE
ANGRY HAS
WHEN THEY
WOULDN'T DO
WHAT THEY
COULD OR
WHEN THEY
MADE
PERFECTORY
PLAYS WHERE
THEY
SHOULD'VE
BEEN
CONCENTRATING?





IS THAT
CORPORAL
PUNISH-
MENT
TOO?!



If repeated
mistakes caused us
to lose a practice
match, I'd make
them run home
30 km from the
opponent's field.



One person's
mistake is
everyone's
mistake.
It's called
collective
responsibility.

I've
had to
run as
well.



From the
point of view
of society,
is it...



Isn't?

No, that
much is only
natural.



I was told
I couldn't leave
until I put
50 balls in the
bucket on the
second base.

When we
lost a match
where I made
a bad throw to
the second
base, I had to
practice
throwing the
ball until late
at night.



Yeah, he'd do
that. He was
even stricter
than me.



You had that
mud-bath at
your coach
back then,
right?

Yes,
Coach
Sagawa.



That gentle
principal was
like that...?





Come on, Paddy. Whatever you may say, how are you supposed to make a guy serious when he doesn't want to be?



Right. Basically, that means they weren't taking the practice seriously, now am I supposed to make them practice seriously?



But I'd never forgive any violence between club members.



Th-That's... after all...



Only I... was allowed to hit.









But most importantly, if a club member would go pro...



Every year the surplus of donations would go into our budget as well.

If we go to the Koshien, there's a bonus from the school then there are gratuities from equipment manufacturers.



In my 30 year career, eight of nine became pros.



Did you receive that much...??



YOU TOO MUST BRING UP GOOD PLAYERS, HATOGAYA!







PRISONERS
DOING TIME
DON'T GET
TO
COMPLAIN
ABOUT
THEIR FOOD!!



That seems
strangely
wrong...

It might be
right that this
place is just
like prison.



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